POISON IVY™

4

WILSON
TAKARA
PRIANTO

IVY WILL SEE YOU NOW.

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

A WAYNE WILL RISE, AND A WAYNE WILL FALL.

BATMAN VS. ROBIN

WRITTEN BY
MARK WAID

ART BY
MAHMUD ASRAR

FIVE 48-PAGE ISSUES SPINNING
OUT OF THE EVENTS OF
BATMAN/SUPERMAN: WORLD'S FINEST
AND *SHADOW WAR*

SEPTEMBER

Sooner or later, everybody tells you who they really are.

GEORGE HALLORAN
EMPLOYEE EFFICIENCY EXPERT

I'M THE *BEST BOSS* YOU'LL EVER HAVE.

UNLESS YOU STEP OUT OF *LINE.*

THEN I'M A *BAD BOSS.*

I had a boss like this once.

A long time ago.

I know exactly what he is capable of.

What he'll do when he thinks no one is watching.

A LOT OF PEOPLE *WASH OUT* IN THEIR FIRST WEEK.

NOBODY WANTS TO *WORK* FOR A LIVING ANYMORE.

THE JOB REQUIREMENTS ARE *RIGHT THERE.*

IF YOU *CAN'T* DO THE JOB, DON'T *APPLY.*

... I'M NOT AFRAID OF *HARD WORK.*

I, *uh--*

SMAK

--I'VE JUST BEEN *BETWEEN JOBS* RECENTLY.

ARE YOU... *OKAY?*

TOTALLY. I'M *FINE.*

Just some *seasonal allergies.*

SMAK!

ALLERGIES, huh?

WELL, AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT *DYING,* YOU MIGHT AS WELL START LEARNING THE *ROPES.*

YOU GOTTA REMEMBER, PLACES LIKE THESE ARE THE *ENGINE ROOMS* OF MODERN COMMERCE.

IF *YOU* FALL BEHIND, *EVERYTHING* FALLS BEHIND-- SO YOU *CAN'T* FALL BEHIND.

YOU *STAND* THE WHOLE TIME. IF YOU GOTTA *PEE*, YOU PEE IN A *BOTTLE*.

IF YOU GOTTA DO THE *OTHER* THING, WAIT 'TIL YOU GET *HOME*. UNDERSTAND?

I--

JESSLYN HERE WILL SHOW YOU HOW EVERYTHING WORKS.

WON'T YOU, JESSLYN?

*Human beings are **not** complicated.*

*Often, it only takes a **few minutes** inside a particular situation to figure out what's **really** going on.*

But even very **obvious** human problems can be difficult to **fix.**

They tend to grow. Or rather, to **metastasize.**

Like an artificial **cancer.**

Until the small, obvious problem is **everywhere.** And now it's **too late** to fix it **at all.**

WELL? WHADDAYA THINK?

I think the hallucinations are getting worse...

DC COMICS PRESENTS:

POISON IVY

CHAPTER FOUR.

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...okay.

And the only way **forward** is a change **so radical** that most people won't even **consider** it.

HE ***WRAPS,*** WE ***PACK.***

IT LOOKS ***SIMPLE,*** BUT STUFF COMES BY ***SO FAST*** THAT IT'S EASY TO ***MISS*** THINGS.

HERE. WATCH ***ME*** UNTIL YOU GET THE HANG OF IT.

Oh, WE GOT A FRESH ONE?

WELCOME TO ***HECK.*** WHERE EVERYTHING YOU ***TOUCH*** WILL EVENTUALLY END UP IN A ***LANDFILL.***

THAT'S ***TIMOTHY.*** Ignore everything he says.

THEY SAY THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU ***FREE,*** BUT IN HERE IT JUST KEEPS YOU ***BUSY!***

DON'T WORRY.

SKCCHH

I'M A QUICK LEARNER.

By now, of course, you **understand** what I'm **doing** here.

These boxes are headed all over the country.

The ones I pack will be teeming with toxic lamia spores.

SPACK

Bearing gifts.

George was right about the engine rooms of commerce.

KOFF!

Our insatiable desire for things is enabled by a vast global supply chain.

That addiction to stuff is killing the planet.

THLINK

I can't stop the endless flow of stuff around the globe.

But I can weaponize it.

With barely any *effort* at all.

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*

Bastard. THINKS HE'S ***DUKE GEORGE*** OF PACKINGHAM-SHIRE.

Droit du seigneur and all that.

LOOK IT UP. WIKIPEDIA.

ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M ***FINE.*** WE HAVE TO ***KEEP GOING*** OR WE'LL FALL ***BEHIND.***

IT'S OKAY ***NOT*** TO BE OKAY AFTER SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

EASY FOR ***YOU*** TO SAY.

CAN'T BELIEVE THE **NERVE** OF THAT GUY.

HE KNOWS THIS IS THE **ONLY** JOB A LOT OF US CAN **GET.** MOST OF US HAVE **RECORDS.**

Jesslyn is right.

It is easy for me to say.

*But it would **also** be easy for me to **fix.***

WHAT IF THERE **WAS** A WAY TO **STOP** HIM?

WE'VE **TRIED** ALL THAT. I WENT TO **HR.** TIMOTHY LEFT AN **ANONYMOUS TIP** ON THE COMPANY WEBSITE.

WE EVEN TRIED TO FORM A **UNION.** BUT WE STARTED GETTING **THREATS.** AND NOBODY HERE CAN AFFORD TO **LOSE** THIS JOB.

MAYBE OLD GEORGE CAN BE **PERSUADED** TO BEHAVE HIMSELF.

IF SOMEBODY PUTS IT TO HIM A **CERTAIN WAY.**

CAN YOU GUYS **COVER** ME FOR A FEW MINUTES? I'LL BE **BACK.**

YOU JUST **GOT** HERE!

DIDN'T YOU GET THE **PEE-IN-A-BOTTLE** SPEECH?

♪♪♪

THUD

HNNG

Wh-what are you doing? What's *happening?*

WE NEED TO HAVE A LITTLE *CHAT.*

HERE'S HOW IT'S GOING TO *GO.*

!

YOU'RE GOING TO EMAIL *YOUR* BOSS. *ADMIT* YOU'VE BEEN *SEXUALLY HARASSING* YOUR *EMPLOYEES.*

THEN, YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE A *GLOWING* PERFORMANCE REVIEW TO *EVERYONE* ON THAT FLOOR, RECOMMEND THEM FOR A *RAISE,* AND SAY YOU *SUPPORT* THEIR INTENT TO FORM A *UNION.*

Why would I agree to all *that?*

BECAUSE YOU'VE ONLY GOT TEN MORE MINUTES TO *LIVE.*

AND I CAN MAKE THAT TIME *VERY* UNPLEASANT IF I CHOOSE.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?! SOME KIND OF *MONSTER?!*

THERE'S ONLY *ONE* MONSTER IN THIS ROOM, GEORGE.

GEORGE.

START TURNING

OKAY, OKAY. I'LL DO WHAT YOU *WANT*. PLEASE, JUST-- please don't *hurt* me--

I'm not a bad guy, you know. I'm not.

IT'S JUST *HARD*, YOU KNOW? TO BE THE *BOSS*.

AT FIRST YOU WANT EVERYBODY TO *LIKE* YOU.

Th-THEN YOU REALIZE IT DOESN'T *WORK*.

THEY HATE YOU *ANYWAY*. BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL IN THE SAME *SYSTEM*. AND THE SYSTEM *CHEWS* PEOPLE *UP*.

S-SO YOU START TO DO THINGS YOU *SHOULDN'T*. BECAUSE YOU START TO HATE THEM *BACK*.

YOU F-FIGURE OUT THAT *FEAR* IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN *LOVE*.

AND *THAT'S*...

...when *it* all...

...GOES *DARK*.

He said something similar once. The ***Green Man.***

When he was my horrible boss.

When he thought my body belonged to him.

But this horrible boss won't put his hands on anyone, ever again.

WONDER IF GEORGE WRUNG HER NECK AND IS BURYING HER UNDER THE FLOOR-BOARDS.

WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM.

NEW PEOPLE ALWAYS THINK THEY CAN CHANGE THINGS.

THEY THINK THEY CAN JUST... COME IN AND PLAY THE HERO.

SHE'S CUTE THOUGH. HOPE SHE'S NOT ACTUALLY DEAD.

SOMETIMES IT'S NICE, YOU KNOW?

WHEN SOMEBODY HAS HOPE. EVEN IF IT'S ALL FOR NOTHING. IT'S NICE TO KNOW SOMEBODY STILL THINKS IT CAN BE DONE.

GOOD NEWS.

Huh?!

GEORGE WON'T BE BOTHERING YOU ANYMORE.

IN FACT, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF TODAY WAS THE LAST DAY HE'LL EVER SHOW UP HERE.

...WHAT THE HELL DID YOU *SAY* TO HIM?

I JUST MADE HIM SEE THAT LIFE'S *TOO SHORT.*

*I should have shut it down **right there.***

*Saved us **both** a lot of **awkwardness.***

*But it's been a **while** since anybody **touched** me like this.*

Want to get out of here?

Uh-huh.

...OKAY, SEE YOU LATER!

Don't worry about **me,** I'll cover everything over here ***just fine!***

Would you **believe** me if I told you I was thinking of **you** the whole time?

Or is that the **worst** line in the **history** of bad lines?

Either way, it's **true.**

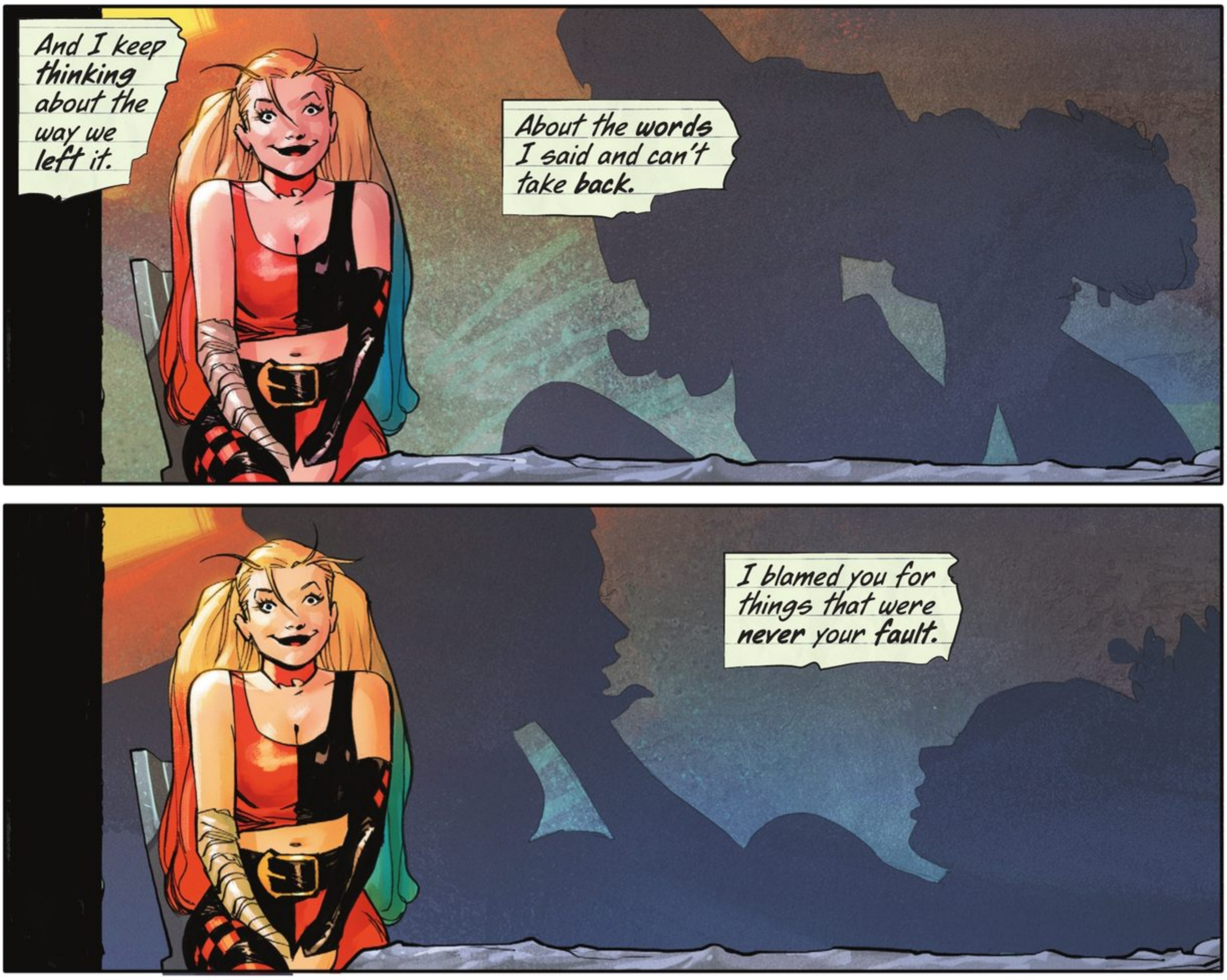
Being with her-- **laughing** with her, feeling her skin on my skin-- I feel like a **human being** again.

I forget that I am **dying.**

But it takes **every ounce** of my strength to keep from **infecting** her with the **poison** that clings to **me.**

I can't take her life.

Not hers.


And I keep thinking about the way we left it.
About the words I said and can't take back.
I blamed you for things that were never your fault.
And now it's too late to say what I should have said then--
I love you, and I'm sorry.

I love you, and I want to come home to you.

I love you, and somehow, after all this...

...I want to live.

But as usual, the world has other plans.

This time, I feel it before I see it.

AHH

!

AAAH!

ohmygodohmygod
ohmygodohmyg
hmygodohmygod
ohmygodohmy

TAGH!

TELL ME WHO *SENT* YOU.

SAY HIS NAME!

THE GREEN MAN... KNOWS... EVERYTHING.

PAMELA.

NOT EVERY-THING.

FLASHBACK

Oh god...
...WHAT IS THAT THING...
...WHAT DID YOU DO TO IT...
...What are you?

I THINK IT'S BEST IF YOU FORGET YOU EVER MET ME.
PEOPLE AROUND ME TEND TO HAVE A BAD TIME.

WAIT!

DON'T GO-- WHAT IF THERE ARE MORE OF THOSE THINGS OUT THERE? WHAT IF IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU IF YOU LEAVE?

IT'S NOT SAFE FOR YOU IF I STAY.

So it wasn't all in my head.

Now I have proof that the Green Man is coming for me.

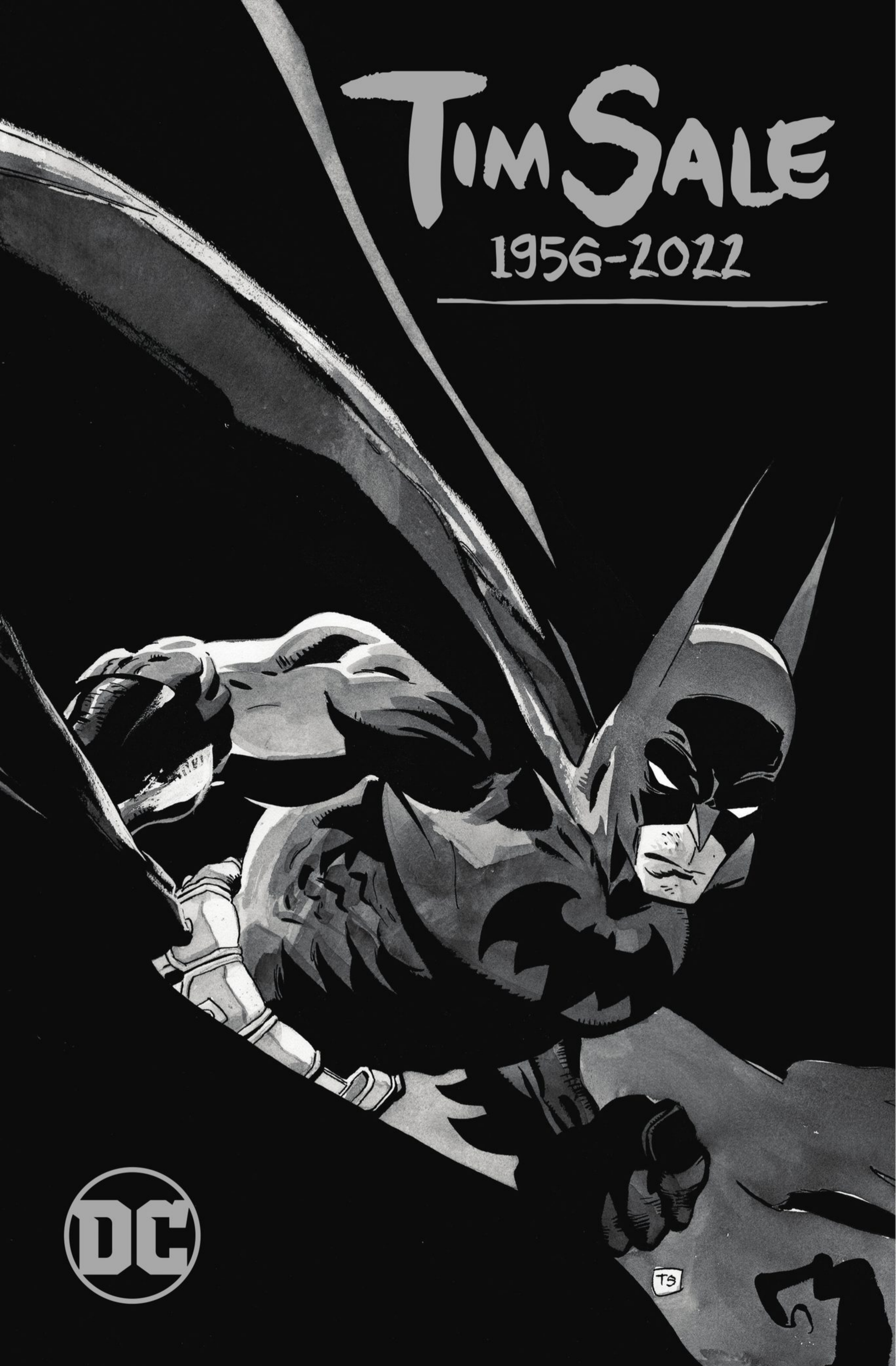
But what he doesn't know...

...is that I am coming for him.

NEXT: DEAD RECKONING.

TIM SALE

1956-2022



DC

Tim Sale left us on June 16, 2022. We were two kids who started out on DC's *Challengers of the Unknown* and over the next 30 years, he took my stories for *Batman* and *Superman* and others and made them magical. He told stories in a way that it all seemed breezy but was anything but that. It was his gift. His artwork was about creating atmosphere through shadows and angles and expression and believe it or not, desks. He drew the best desks--desks that told you what the character valued like if Tim was an art director in a film. He loved comics, baseball, the Beatles, old movies, music, noir, food, his dogs, his fans, and most of all, the love of his life, Suzy. He was kind and funny and an inspiration as to how to live one's life.
I miss you, my pal.

JEPH LOEB

I've never met an artist as talented, skilled, smart, and charming as Tim. We spent a million hours talking about Norman Rockwell, Alex Toth, Ichiro, and Creedence Clearwater Revival. A *Master* storyteller, Tim Sale's art and life were a wonder to behold.

MARK CHIARELLO

Tim was not only a consummate artist and innovative creator, he was also, above all, a sensitive, kind, and loyal friend. If you ever talked to him in person, or on the phone, you knew him to be thoughtful and considerate and always genuinely interested in what you had to say. He always had time for fans and fellow professionals alike, and when he found out I was going to be alone in a new state on my birthday in 2018, he flew out from Seattle to Chattanooga to hang out and eat Mexican food together. That is the Tim I will miss most of all.

RICHARD STARKINGS

Tim Sale was an amazing artist, draftsman, and storyteller. He had that special kind of talent you encounter once in a generation. I'm convinced his work stood out because he was simply fearless. He didn't care that his work looked different from the mainstream house styles. Beyond the taut chiaroscuro style which became his trademark, Tim clearly put a premium on storytelling, clarity, and pacing--cherishing emotion above all. His stories were beautifully visceral and nuanced and evinced deep humanity. Tim simply had no use for surface banality. He was such a sweet, kind, and good-natured soul. I feel fortunate to have called him a friend and will miss him beyond words.

JIM LEE

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Heads or tails, Batman will lose.

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BATMAN ONE BAD DAY TWO-FACE #1

MARIKO TAMAKI

JAVIER FERNANDEZ

JORDIE BELLAIRE

The second of eight 64-page Prestige format specials starring the Dark Knight's worst enemies in their best stories yet.

DC

September

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DC HORROR PRESENTS

SGT. ROCK VS. THE ARMY OF THE DEAD

INTERVIEW WITH BRUCE CAMPBELL

Horror icon and writer Bruce Campbell teams with legendary artist Eduardo Risso for a horror-soaked spin on the DC Universe's greatest soldier in the six-issue series *DC Horror Presents: Sgt. Rock vs. the Army of the Dead*.

Can you set up *Sgt. Rock vs. the Army of the Dead* for fans?

It's the most critical point in our most critical war. So what could we put Sgt. Rock up against and still have it be sort of believable? In any of these fantastical stories you get one "gimme," and here it's that Hitler can bring soldiers back from the dead. So how do you kill something that's already dead? The answer is it's a big, fat pain in the ass. Sgt. Rock provides the answer to, "Who's gonna take care of business?"

What is it about Sgt. Rock that appeals to you?

Sgt. Rock has several superhero qualities for a mere mortal, which I'm always attracted to. He's low-tech, old-school, and just a great soldier. I actually wanted to introduce him directing traffic in this story. You'd think you'd meet him in a raging battle, but I wanted to make him human and a guy you could relate to.

What's the most bone-chilling scene from the first issue?

We've got a scene where Sgt. Rock's men capture one of these zombie creatures and bring him into a lab. These are scary, hopped-up creatures who are operating on impulse. The creature breaks free and it takes almost all of them to subdue it. If it took this much to destroy just one of these creatures...boys, we've got our work cut out for us.

What insane imagery is Eduardo Risso bringing to this series?

When it's horror you need to turn it up a notch, and the things you don't see are just as important as the things you do see. He's great with characters, faces, and mood. In a horror movie mood is two-thirds of it, so it's a pretty good marriage of artist and subject matter. What I've seen so far is great!

DON'T MISS
DC HORROR PRESENTS: SGT. ROCK VS. THE ARMY OF THE DEAD #1,
ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER!

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"